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Title: Need to review the policy of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on agricultural research activities.

SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE (RAVER): Government have given many incentives to encourage R&D initiatives by industry and to make R&D an attractive proposition. The expenses on R&D facilities are approved by the secretary, Department of scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) which is the designated approving authority under the Act. DSIR issues guidelines for claiming weighted deduction and lists out expenses that are eligible in relation to R&D facilities. The latest guidelines of 2014 restrict weighted deduction on expenses incurred for employing contract labour /manpower employed at R&D farms and labs. It has proposed that the fiscal incentives under weighted deductions u/s 35(2AB) are available to seed industry till March 2017, beyond which Government propose to discontinue. The research activities carried out at R&D farms are not only labour intensive but require highly skilled labour for carrying out manual cross breeding and pollination of the test lines. The process of developing a researched hybrid seeds involves various steps, however, the most crucial and labour intensive steps which are extensively performed by farm labourers are manual emasculation, artificial pollination etc. in addition to the highly skilled activities, the farm labourers are involved in cultivation, weeding, harvesting and applying farms inputs to the test crops. Rejection of legitimate expenses and withdrawal of fiscal incentives would not only hamper the growth path envisaged by the Indian seed Companies but would ultimately force them to discontinue indigenous research and tie up with MNCs to sustain the most copetitive markets. Through the August House, I request Agriculture Minister and Farmers welfare to review the DSIR policy in respect of agricultural research activities which directly relates to the famers and to extend the fiscal incentive of weighted deduction provision u/s 35(2AB) as available earlier for the farm labourers. In turn, it will enable the seed companies to inspire and involve themselves in the research work to bring more quality seeds of yielding varieties.